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TAGS: [KACT](#) [PARM](#) [START](#) [JCIC](#) [INF](#) [US](#) [RS](#) [UP](#) [BO](#) [KZ](#)
SUBJECT: JCIC-XXXIV: (U) U.S.-UKRAINIAN BILATERAL MEETING
ON START FOLLOW-ON NEGOTIATIONS, JUNE 9, 2009

Classified By: Jerry A. Taylor, United States Representative
to the Joint Compliance and Inspection Commission.
Reasons: 1.4(b) and (d).

[1](#)1. (U) This is JCIC-XXXIV-006.

[1](#)2. (U) Meeting Date: June 9, 2009
Time: 3:30 - 4:00 P.M.
Place: U.S. Mission, Geneva

U.S.	Ukraine
Mr. Taylor	Mr. Nykonenko

UKRAINE ADAMANT ABOUT
BEING INCLUDED IN START
FOLLOW-ON ARRANGEMENT

[1](#)3. (S) At a bilateral meeting held at the U.S. Mission on June 9, 2009, the Ukrainian Head of Delegation Nykonenko met with U.S. Head of Delegation Taylor, at Nykonenko's request, to express Ukraine's serious concerns with regard to the U.S. and Russia bilateral negotiations of the START Follow-on Treaty. Nykonenko stated that it was very important that Ukraine play a role in the follow-on negotiations and suggested that he saw the possibility that Ukraine could be an ad-hoc partner in the new treaty. Maybe Ukraine could play the role of an independent party and be invited to be involved in verification as a third party. This issue had become very important from a domestic point of view.

[1](#)4. (S) Nykonenko recalled that all of Ukraine's foreign policy was created on the basis of a peaceful arrangement

with the United States and the Russian Federation with the signing of the Lisbon Protocol and entry into force of the START Treaty. Ukraine acknowledged that the United States had helped Ukraine in many ways. However, it now seemed that the United States was saying thank you very much, good-bye, as Nykonenko motioned by wiping his hands. Ukraine had made very large contributions to nuclear disarmament and had followed U.S. advice. Now, where was Ukraine? It was outside the process and now many politicians were using the situation for their own interest. Ukraine needed something for the expiration of the Treaty.

15. (S) Nykonenko continued by saying that he was concerned that there was not much time before the START Treaty expired and that there was the likelihood of a legal void. With this void, there were concerns over National Security from Ukraine's view. Nykonenko pointed out that Ukraine was in a very unique situation as it was not a member of any military bloc. In fact, it was the largest country outside any military bloc. Belarus and Kazakhstan were both members of the Tashkent Security Bloc. All of Ukraine's neighbors to the west were members of NATO. With the expiration of START, Ukraine was concerned that there would no longer be any security guarantees. The events of last August should be enough notice for anyone to see the possibilities, not to mention Romania, Tuzla, the Black Sea fleet, and the gas supply issues with Russia. Ukraine did not feel protected by the Budapest memorandum. It was looking for something legally binding to provide security assurances. Relationships with Russian had worsened during the last year. Russia was a big neighbor and had much influence in the

political arena, especially with the new elections that would be coming this year. The only mechanism in place was the UN Security Council and that was valid only if Russia invaded its territory. There was no such help in the economic and political spheres.

16. (S) The Ukrainian people were looking for help and needed an umbrella at least until Ukraine was a member of NATO. Nykonenko urged the United States to begin talks immediately to conclude a new multilateral, legally-binding arrangement of security assurances. Nykonenko closed by saying that he would be presenting a paper from his government on Wednesday, June 10, outlining a way ahead and urged Taylor to ensure that Washington received this information. Nykonenko said that he hoped to hold meetings with Ms. Anita Friedt, Acting DAS for State/EUR in the very near future to discuss this issue further.

17. (S) Taylor responded thanking Nykonenko for the information saying that he would indeed report the conversation back to Washington and that he would await the presentation of Ukraine's position on Wednesday with interest. Taylor further stated that the United States recognized the historical and valuable disarmament contributions made by Ukraine through its accession to the Nuclear Nonproliferation Treaty as a non-nuclear weapons state. Ukraine had indeed been a valued partner in the implementation of the START Treaty since its entry into force. As far as security guarantees, the United States stood behind the assurances it provided in December 1994, which were further reinforced through UN Security Council Resolution 984 in 1995. Moreover, these assurances were not tied to obligations under the START Treaty, nor would they expire with the expiration of START.

18. (S) Nykonenko thanked Taylor for his time again and urged him to relay his concerns to Washington.

19. (U) Documents exchanged. None.

110. (U) Taylor sends.
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